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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2021

2020/2021 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY SOUTHERN AREA CLOSURE

The commercial golden king crab fishery in the Southern management area will close at 12:00 noon, **April 27, 2021**. Based on an analysis of effort levels and harvest projections, the harvest is expected to reach the 20,000-pound guideline harvest level for the Southern Area by the closure date. Permit holders are reminded that call-in requirements remain in effect for all current registrants. Permit holders are also requested to notify the department when they cease fishing.

The department will continue to monitor fishery performance via harvest ticket/logbook and port sampling data for the remaining open management areas: Mid-Chatham Strait, East Central, and Lower Chatham Strait. Additional management actions may be taken as necessary, and the department will provide as much advance notice as possible for future area closures.

A vessel may leave gear in a stored condition for five days following the closure of a portion of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(2)]. All gear must be removed from the Southern Area no later than 12:00 noon, May 2, 2021.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1121.

Advisory announcement web site: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main.

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